



# diverse stories / One Hispanic Family

GSHA Virtual Conference & Annual Meeting  
September 16 & 17, 2022



## 2022 Conference Speaker Bios



**Shayne Sotelo and Mariachi Alegre**

A unique collection of professionals who blend their skills to create quality Latin music. Shayne Sotelo, their dynamic group leader, is an Artist in Residence who performed annually as a vocal soloist with the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra.

A vibrant violinist trained classically as well as in Bluegrass and Western Swing, Shayne has also performed extensively abroad including at the notable inauguration of the Himeji Cultural Arts Center in Himeji, Japan.

As a versatile multitalented group, they have opened for names such as The Texas Tornados, Lola Beltran, Marco Antonio Solis, and Juan Gabriel.

**José Antonio Esquibel** is a genealogical researcher, historian, and author of articles related to Spanish colonial genealogy and history, with particular regard to seventeenth-century New Mexico.



He has contributed to four anthologies on New Mexico history, served as a research consultant for the Vargas Project and El Camino Real Project, and is co-author with France V. Scholes, Eleanor B. Adams, and Marc Simmons of the book *Juan Domínguez de Mendoza: Soldier and Frontiersman of the Spanish Southwest, 1629-1693* (UNM Press, 2012).

In 2009, Juan Carlos II, King of Spain, admitted José Antonio to the knightly Orden de Isabel la Católica for his dedication to uncovering and preserving the history of Spain and Spanish heritage in New Mexico.

He is a former Vice President of the Historical Society of New Mexico and maintains the Beyond Origins of NM Families web site.

**Debbie Gurtler, AG®** graduated with honors from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in Family History. She worked as an intern at the New England Historic Genealogical Society. She has also made research trips to archives in Spain, Virginia, and North Carolina. She is employed



by FamilySearch where she manages the Latin America/Southern European and German/Slavic teams at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. She is fluent in Spanish. She can also read genealogical documents in Portuguese, Italian, and French. She is a member of several genealogical societies including HISPAGEN and Antzinako in Spain, the National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), Texas State Genealogical Society, New Mexico Genealogical Society, the Cuban Genealogy Club of Miami, and the Utah Genealogical Association (UGA) in the United States. She is the President of the Utah Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Debbie holds four AG® credentials. For Spain, the United States Mid-South region, Portugal, and Mexico.



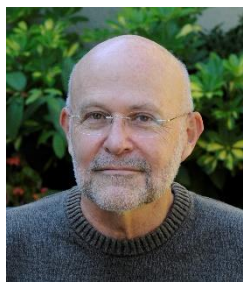
**Gloria Mora** is from La Puente, New Mexico and lives in Pueblo, Colorado. She attended Tierra Amarilla High School in New Mexico for two years, then graduated from Central High School in Pueblo, Colorado. She earned Bachelors of Arts Degree in Physical Education, Spanish, School and Community at Adams State University and her Master's

Degree in Psychology and Counseling at Adams State University.

Gloria Mora taught for more than 30 years, starting teaching physical education at St. Mary's Catholic School, then at the elementary, middle, and high school levels in the regular classroom, the bilingual education classroom, the migrant education, and foreign language in the elementary school. She also taught the Spanish Conversation Class 101 to medical and criminal Justice students at Pueblo Community College. She was a counselor for six years, in grades K-12 in the U.S. and the middle school counselor with the Department Defense Schools at the U.S. Air Force Base in Misawa, Japan.

Gloria's goal is to write about her ancestral heritage. She was born in the placita of La Puente, in northern New Mexico.

Colonial Spanish is her first language. She writes of her personal cultural experiences growing up with her parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, extended family and all the people in the placita in colonial Spanish. Most of her stories are about her childhood, so her stories are written for children.



**Alexander King** is an eighth generation *Californio* and an accomplished historical and genealogical researcher of over three decades, with a particular interest in New Mexican immigration to California before 1850.

He was an early and now honorary member of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America, Southern California Chapter (GSHA-SC); a former board member of the Old Spanish Trail Association; and earlier, a board member of the Los Californianos heritage association.

**Rick Hendricks** is the New Mexico state records administrator. He is a former New Mexico state historian and an editor of the Vargas Project at the University of New Mexico. He has written extensively on the history of the American Southwest and Mexico. His most recent book, *Pueblo Indian Sovereignty: Land and Water in New Mexico and Texas*, was coauthored with Malcolm Ebright. Forthcoming from the University of New Mexico Press, also with Ebright, is a study of the life and times of Pablo Abeita of Isleta Pueblo.



**Ada Nelson.** After retiring from an engineering career, Ada became a full-time genealogist specializing in Latin American research. A former family history consultant at the Family History Library, she is currently Vice-President of the Hispanic Heritage Project and a frequent presenter at genealogy conferences. A native of Panama, she is the founder and co-administrator of



the Panama DNA Group, as well as a professional translator. Ada's multiethnic background has guided her research into the Iberian, Basque, Chinese, French, Sephardic, Indigenous, and African experience in Latin America. She enjoys empowering fellow Hispanics to search for their roots and discover their heritage.



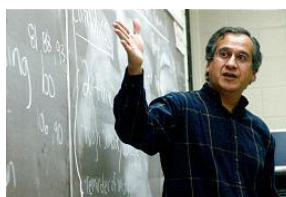
**Carlos Yturralde** is founder and President of Hispanic Heritage Project (HHP), a past board member of SHAAR and of the GSHA-Southern California Chapter. For the last 25 years, he has been negotiating with Mexican government and church leaders

to digitize their colonial archives to make them accessible to the public on the website panes.info.

**Daniel Horowitz** is the Genealogy Expert at MyHeritage, providing key contributions: liaising with genealogy societies, bloggers and media, as well as lecturing, and attending conferences around the world. Dedicated to Genealogy since 1986, he was the teacher and the study guide editor of the family history project "Searching for My Roots" in Venezuela for 15 years. Daniel is involved in several crowdsource digitization and transcription projects and holds a board level position at the Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA).



**Armando Solorzano** is a family and consumer studies associate professor, received the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of his contributions during 23 years of teaching at the U and seven years serving as a deacon in the Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City.



**Jorge Rodriguez** is an artist, public school educator



(art, history, and English), and radio host. Jorge is a graduate of Utah Valley University with a BFA in Visual Arts and Communications. He has focused some of his passion for the Latino community into Cada Domingo, on a public radio station, KPCW Community

Wireless in Park City, Utah. His show is one of the few radio shows in Spanish in Utah that delve deeply into cultural, as well as social and political issues affecting the Latino community, as well as bringing attention and focus to art created by Latinx artists. Jorge has been a key player in joining community organizations in Park City to promote the appreciation of Latino cultures and the contributions of Latinos to the area. Jorge's work explores challenging social issues, connecting with his indigenous and cultural roots, and the amazing reality of nature.